

The Confederate.

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EDITORS.

All letters on business of the Office, to be
directed to A. M. GORMAN & Co.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1864.

Owing to a short force, we are compelled to use larger type than usual for this issue. We are in need of more hands, and THREE OR FOUR COMPOSITORS can receive permanent situations by immediate application at this Office.

The Country is Safe.

The few unimportant reverses measure nothing in the length and breadth of this struggle. It is now a universal people, conscious of right, strong in their resolves, and reliant in their faith on Divine Providence, that maintains the contest. We may suffer disaster—it is the fortune of war. It may dispirit us, and to our sorrow may be added the croakings of those who anticipate reverse, and the equivocal, scarce restrained satisfaction of the disloyal. But no spirit is broken by reverse. Determination is strengthened, and resolve maintained. We see unquestionable tokens of exhaustion with our enemies. We see among them division, discord and separation. We are on the eve of a rupture which will sever every cord that attaches them. The "Sentinel" in Richmond at the center, on the observatory, seeing the contiguous and the remote signs, and a truthful journal, fairly presenting events and the consequences, cheers us in the assurance that "time" is working for us. No note of discouragement comes from Davis or Lee. Both are true men, and both will give timely warning if peril be near. Listen not to croakers. All works well. A few days will strengthen our cause. The crisis has been met. It is not upon us as it was in the days of June. "Be patient and wary." Strengthen the arm of government—give confidence, force and means to the cause—for "all works well."

Since we wrote the foregoing—that "all works well," the telegraph has brought the gratifying intelligence of a signal success near Petersburg. On the 25th, in the evening, the enemy was stormed in his works on the Weldon railroad—those tremendous fortifications which had risen like magic—and on the second assault his entire lines were carried, with heavy loss to him and a comparatively slight loss to us.

It added to this cheering news, that the North Carolina troops of Cook's, McRae's and Line's brigade, bore a conspicuous part in this important operation. The other force engaged was Wilcox's division under Connor, with Pegram's artillery. The cavalry of Hampton, carried one line by an assault of great gallantry. Seven stands of colors, 4,000 prisoners and nine pieces of artillery, substantial tokens of victory, were captured by us.

What makes this significant as an affair of importance, is the expression of gratitude to God, and thanks to the troops, with which Gen. Lee solemnly closes his dispatch. No doubt Gen. Lee is always grateful for every favor of Providence, in however small measure it may be vouchsafed; but little favors he feels silently, returning the obligation of gratitude according to the gift bestowed. But a crowning mercy, makes his heart glad. He communicates by public proclamation his thanksgiving, that the nation may rejoice with him. The hand of the Almighty has been visibly with our cause and on our side throughout this campaign. Without His help, we could do nothing.

We may expect to hear further and better news still.

That from the Southwest, to the rear of Sherman, is gratifying. Wheeler has done heavy damage on the line of Sherman's communication.

The Railroad is said to be wrecked from Acworth to Dalton—the bridges destroyed, the track broken up, and supplies captured. At last accounts Wheeler was lost sight of, near Dalton, and since then the enemy says his "movements have been mysterious." Forrest in his official report does not mention the capture of Memphis, but only his attack upon the place. He will no doubt play his part in the "long war" game upon Sherman. The Georgia papers are buoyant and confident.

The latest Northern dates between considerable elation over the move on the Weldon Railroad. The Yankees were rejoicing just about the same time that respectable frogs here were croaking that they were fighting in the streets of Petersburg, and thirty million of Yankees had got on the Danville line. The fact is, these frogs have a fountain of grief under these fictitious disasters, which half redeems the pain of suffering and makes sympathy less

burdensome. There is a puff about their sorrow, as the swell of a wind gall: it is a pleasant rather than a painful operation, to prick it. The slightest success to our arms, like caustic to a sore, relieves them by substituting a new inflammation.

From the trans-Mississippi, the intelligence is equally cheering. The enemy have wholly abandoned Texas—Magruder is removed to Arkansas—he Yankee Steele seems to be almost shut up in Little Rock, powerless for harm—Shelley is recruiting largely on the borders of Missouri, and Price is waiting till the crop hardens in the field, to fetch his swoop upon his native State.

The Chicago Convention meets to-day, and all signs indicate a candidate on the plain issue of peace. Gen. Lee's delegate of last Friday, who has just received his appointment, will carry great weight.

Mr. Benjamin's Circular.

The expose from Mr. Benjamin on the late Peace interview in Richmond, is published in the Richmond papers. We will publish it to-morrow. It sets at rest the various surmises and misstatements which from Messrs. Jacques and Gilmore, as also from other sources, have been put in circulation; by some of which President Davis has been made to utter sentiments breathing war, in the most unbecoming phrase.

It simply appears that two rather obscure persons for a great empire, came towards our lines at the desire of Mr. Lincoln, the "so-called" President of the Federal Government, possessed fully of his views, and seeking an interview with President Davis, the actual chief Executive of the federation of States known by this time throughout the world, as the Southern Confederacy. They came also, besides the unfolding of Mr. Lincoln's ideas and expectations, to elicit the views and hear the sentiments of Mr. President Davis; their expectation being to inaugurate more formal peace negotiations.

As evidence of their authenticity, they were furnished to Gen. Grant with a letter from Lincoln, asking his interposition to obtain their entry into our lines; and in accordance with this letter, Gen. Grant addressed the request to Gen. Lee, asking an allowance for them to meet Mr. Ould, our Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners. This was referred to the President, and his assent obtained. When brought in contact with Mr. Ould, they expressed a desire to visit Richmond for an interview with President Davis. This wish was gratified, and Mr. Ould was sent to fetch them, with instructions to arrange their reception and to hold them under best fitting surveillance. They were established at the St. Louis wood house, and from thence opened communications with Mr. Secretary Benjamin. This note fully explains their position, and upon it they were admitted to an interview, at his office, with the Secretary of State.

Upon their assurance, that though they came unofficially yet they were "possessed of the views of Mr. Lincoln;" that they came to "have an informal understanding preliminary to more formal negotiations;" and that "their efforts of PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE HONORABLE TO THE CONFEDERACY," they were promised a reception from President Davis; and at nine o'clock of the designated evening, they were permitted to wait upon His Excellency, at the office of Secretary Benjamin. At that reception, they were encouraged to state their objects and expectations; and in a very few moments Mr. Gilman, who was the spokesman, discovered that their visit was based on some expectation of a readiness on the part of our government to accept peace on the foundation of reconstruction—to acquiesce in the abolition of slavery—and to receive the grant of an amnesty, to repentant criminals.

Upon the question of abolition, a vote of the people North and South was to be taken, the majority to rule. It appears that Mr. Davis gave to these propositions that courteous bearing which distinguishes his official intercourse with all persons—fairly responding that the government could not constitutionally speak for the States on the slavery question, as that was a State institution, under the control of State legislation—a fact which he happily reminded Messrs. Jacques and Gilmore to be one of sufficient notoriety as to be within the scope of Mr. Lincoln's information. President Davis did but little more. He stated that Mr. Lincoln's views with his abolition by a majority vote reconstruction and amnesty for criminal conduct, was simply a submission to mercy, and a surrender at discretion THAT EXTERMINATION WAS PREFERABLE TO SUCH DISHONOR.

In this resolve he will be borne out by the moral, intellectual, and physical force of the nation. This sentiment enwrapped in this almost a single word, is of the force of a volume, of unimpeachable authority.

The two left Richmond the succeed morning, having been taken for the interview that confidential esteem which was to retain it a secret between the parties. But no sooner do they get home on Yankee ground they blurt it out, and accompany the narrative with that amount of fiction which makes productions from Yankee authors savor more of romance than history.

It is not complained of that they enlarged the number of their confidants and the borders of their secret. Perhaps they had the right, as it was theirs. Certainly we had neither wish nor motive to preserve the secret longer than they desired; and now Mr. Benjamin's statement is only to preserve the truth.

The material fact is, that Lincoln made the approach. That though he did it under the usual cover, it was done with more of respectful courtesy than has been his habit. That some pressure has inclined him to a less brutal conclusion of the war than when he purposed to confiscate the property and hang the leaders.

But the exposure of this matter will still further satisfy the North, that Lincoln's terms of peace are intolerable to honorable men: that they really offer no conditions possible for the cessation of bloodshed.

Further: That the nigger abolitionists as it has ever done before the Union; and that the war and carnage is yet a it as ever been, against slavery—not for the Union.

This is most desirable information for the Northern people. It will reach them in time for the Chicago Convention; and it will be a powerful ally to Wood, Long, Pier, Vreeland, and all who favor a PEACE CANDIDATE. It will be accompanied by a short but pithy statement from Gen. Lee on the line of the Weldon railroad—which will not be without its importance.

[From the Petersburg Express of Saturday.]

FROM THE FRONT.

ANOTHER BATTLE ON THE WELDON ROAD—THE ENEMY ATTACKED AND DRIVEN FROM HIS WORKS—TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED PRISONERS AND NINE PIECES OF ARTILLERY CAPTURED—BRIGADIER GENERAL CUTLER IS A PRISONER—GALLANT BEARING OF OUR CAVALRY.

The city was filled with rumors early yesterday morning of a heavy battle on the Weldon Railroad, fought Thursday afternoon, and as unusual very exaggerated accounts of the affair were circulated. Without stopping to enumerate these reports, we shall proceed at once to give what we believe to be an authentic version of the affair.

General Lee having ascertained that the enemy was moving his infantry from the front down the railroad for the purpose of tearing up the track, determined to make counter movements to check them. Accordingly, on Wednesday night Lieut. Gen. A. P. Hill moved from his position South of the city, and marching down the county roads, encamped in the vicinity of Reams' Station, ten miles from Petersburg, and on Thursday got his command in position for action, when the proper moment should arrive.

The enemy had erected a strong line of works on the road about one mile this side of Reams' station. A brigade of cavalry under command of the notorious Speer, were found engaged in tearing up the railroad track three or four miles the other side of Reams', with a heavy support of infantry in convenient distance. About eight o'clock a. m., General Hampton swooped down upon this cavalry force, and gallantly charging them, drove them from their work of destruction, and pressed them back behind their infantry support in great confusion.

Dismounting his men, General Hampton formed his line and attacked the infantry. This fighting was sharp, but gradually and steadily he gained ground, and pushed the enemy back, until they reached their breastworks this side of Reams', capturing in the meantime, about 800 prisoners. Having thus accomplished his full share of the work, the fight ceased until our infantry could be brought into action.

About 5 o'clock p. m., Gen. Hill having reached a position on the enemy's flank, attacked their works, behind which a large force of infantry was massed, and upon which bristled a heavy line of cannon. Our troops moved forward in beautiful order to the attack, but before reaching the works, were checked by the terrible fire of grape, canister and musketry poured into their ranks. Such was the severity of the firing, that a temporary faltering was visible, but there was no retreat. The assaulting column threw themselves upon the ground until the supports came up, when with a yell they arose and ad-

vanced upon the enemy. The cannon and musketry firing from the enemy's works, was, if possible, now increased, but their desperation availed them not. Without check or faltering our men charged up to and over the works. Nearly if not quite two thousand prisoners, belonging to Hancock's (Second) Corps, were captured, with nine pieces of artillery.

The Yankees who were not captured in the assault fled in great confusion, dropping their guns and many of them throwing away everything that at all encumbered them. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, commanding a Battery of Artillery, turned the captured guns upon the enemy with most excellent effect, greatly assisting their speed and terror. The enemy scattered in every direction, but our forces were unable to pursue in consequence of the lateness of the hour, and the near approach of night.

The captured guns are of the Napoleon pattern, beautifully finished and intact. They are just such as are needed in our army, and their acquisition will prove of no small benefit.

A very large amount of personal plunder fell into the hands of our brave troops, and each and all of them secured something of value. Gold and silver watches, fine oil cloths, large sums of greenbacks, stationary, and every imaginable kind of Yankee "Notion" fell to their lot.

The battle here ended with the above result, and the enemy in full and disordered retreat towards their main position at the Yellow Tavern. Two or three hours more of daylight might have brought about a still greater change in the aspect of affairs.

We may be permitted to contradict a report which reached the city yesterday, regarding the behavior of a portion of our infantry force. It was stated that several brigades of the assaulting column failed to do their duty in the charge, and threw themselves upon the ground, while others were compelled to charge over them. The affair was grossly misrepresented. The leading troops in the charge were temporarily checked by the severity of the fire from the enemy's works, and at the moment threw themselves to the ground to prevent any greater destruction of life. When the supports came up they immediately arose, and charged on with them. The infantry behaved throughout in the most gallant manner.

Our loss for the fighting done was very small, and one thousand will cover it. Many of the wounded are but slightly hurt. We could hear of the loss of no general officer.

Up to dark last evening, about two thousand prisoners had been brought in, among them about one hundred commissioned officers from Colonel down. Col. Cutler, acting Brigadier-General, is among the captured. The number of prisoners will reach over twenty hundred. The enemy's loss is unknown, but believed to have been severe.

Hancock's corps was engaged in the battle, and probably other infantry troops, besides cavalry.

The loss of this corps on Thursday could not have been less than five thousand, and when this is taken into consideration, with the previous losses it has sustained, it may safely be said that it is nearly ruined.

Col. Speer was not captured, as reported. His flight was too rapid to admit of being overtaken.

The Weldon railroad has been torn up to a point four miles beyond Reams' station and the work pretty effectually accomplished. This road has proved a veritable trap to the unfortunate Yankees. Counting the raiders captured on its line from Wilson, the enemy has lost 10,000 prisoners in attempting to hold and destroy it. They have probably lost as many more in killed and wounded. It will yet prove their greatest disaster.

We still hold the works captured from the enemy, and we predict that our men will not be so easily driven from them as the Yankees were. From an officer who examined them, we learn that they are very strong, and very favorably situated.

We understand that Col. D. A. Weiser, of this city, commanded two brigades in the engagement, and that he acted with conspicuous gallantry, his men sharing in no small degree, the glory of the occasion.

There were only two casualties in the 12th Va. Regiment, viz: Sergt. J. R. Bell, Co. C, killed; and private S. W. Marsh, Co. I, wounded.

OUR CAVALRY IN THE BATTLE.

The conduct of our cavalry in the battle near Reams' Station, deserves especial distinction. They commenced the action early in the morning by a charge, in which Speer's squadrons were scattered and compelled to seek refuge behind Hancock's infantry. This famous corps, Hampton's cavalry prepared to engage

without hesitation. Dismounting, they rushed upon the enemy, and despite the advantage of his position, pushed him steadily until he found shelter in his works. Then awaiting Hill's attack on the flank, they again moved forward in concert with the infantry, and by their combined assault, easily drove the enemy from his stronghold.

Throughout this engagement the cavalry exhibited the greatest gallantry. It is hard to distinguish among such uniformity of merit, but we understand special applause was elicited by the superb bearing of the regiments of Colonel Beale (9th Va.) and of Colonel Roberts (2nd N. C.). General Hampton again attested his pre-eminent qualification for the command of our cavalry.

COLORS CAPTURED.

Seven stands of colors were captured in the engagement.

From Richmond Dispatch, August 26th.

SKIRMISH NEAR CHESTER STATION.

The enemy's line of pickets in front of Chester on the Richmond and Petersburg railroad, was attacked yesterday morning by General Pickett's command and driven in. Some sixty or seventy prisoners were captured. Our loss small.

FROM THE VALLEY.

An official dispatch from General Early, at Charlestown, states that he has pressed the enemy back to Harper's Ferry.

We have received some gratifying particulars of the recent engagement near Winchester. The rout of the enemy was complete, equaling, if it did not surpass, the stampede from Kernstown a few weeks since. The enemy had in the fight about eight thousand cavalry, and some four thousand or five thousand infantry, which was the rear guard of their main army, the latter being in full retreat towards the Potomac. After the affair at Front Royal, our army pushed on, coming up with the rear guard at Winchester, were, for a short time, held at bay by their artillery, and suffered some little loss, but nothing could withstand the valor of our troops, and with a yell they charged the enemy, who broke and ran in the wildest confusion.

They were pursued for several miles beyond Winchester when darkness compelled General Early to call off his men and allow them to rest. The next morning the pursuit was recommenced, but the enemy had taken advantage of the darkness and gotten too far in advance to be overtaken.

We got about two hundred and fifty prisoners and one piece of artillery, besides a number of horses, and any quantity of small arms, clothing &c., which the enemy in their flight threw away.

But very few of the enemy were killed or wounded, and our entire casualties did not exceed fifteen.

THE TRAITOR CABB.—Hon. R. W. B. Cobb, whom a portion of the good people of Alabama were so used to electing to Congress has turned up at Nashville, it is reported, en route for Kansas, or Washington.

THE TALLAHASSEE.—Late Northern papers announce that the Confederate cruiser Tallahassee has safely gotten out of the harbor of Halifax, and is again at large upon the high seas. As a matter of course, all Yankeeedom again in commotion.

Died.

VIVIAN, infant son and only child of Capt. C. K. and CARIE V. ALLEN, at 6 o'clock, A. M. Monday, 2nd inst., aged seven weeks. Vivian was a sweet child, and a precious lad of promise, but too rare a flower for earth, he has been transplanted to heaven, where he will keep forever in the smiles of His who has said, "suffer little children to come unto me." There has been a broken heart, but an additional link formed to heaven; there is a vacancy here, but, another bright, smiling angel has gone to the courts of glory, and while his bereaved parents mourn on earth, Vivian strikes his golden harp, in praise of the Everlasting Redeemer in heaven.

CHARLIE.

August 27, 1864.

New Advertisements.

NINETY THOUSAND FOUR PER CENT CERTIFICATES, for sale TUCKER ANDREWS & CO. Auctioneers, Com. Merchants. Aug. 29.

Just Received, A SMALL LOT OF FRENCH M'KIN'S UNDERSHIRTS.

CALL soon, before they are all gone, at aug 27 dlv A. KLINE'S.

NOTICE.

AS GOOD AS THE BEST, CIDER VINEGAR, BRAGG'S BEST CHERRY TOBACCO, A FEW PAPERS OF NEEDLES, W. W. WOODS'S, for sale at August 27th dlv.

Wanted.

THE subscriber wishes to employ, for the next season, a young lady qualified to teach the English Branch and Music in his private family, to a few small children. Referees and others will find a pleasant home on application, with references, immediately, to KADER BIGGS, aug 27 dlv Hilliardston, Nash Co., N. C.

Primitive Baptist Association.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association will convene at New Church, six miles north-east of Raleigh on FRIDAY before the last Sunday in September next. Persons from a distance arriving at Raleigh by railroad, will be furnished with conveyance to the place of meeting. aug 27 dlv City papers friendly to the cause of religion, please copy.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. FARMAN, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 26.—The affair on the Weldon railroad on Wednesday, was a very gallant one, and successful in its results. While the enemy's cavalry under Gen. Speer were engaged in tearing up the track several miles beyond Reams' Station, Gen. Hampton attacked and forced them back behind their infantry supports. Hampton dismounted his men and fought the infantry gallantly, steadily pushing them back until they reached their strong works one mile this side of Reams', capturing about eight hundred prisoners. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon General Hill attacked the enemy's works, and after a short but sharp engagement, took them, capturing a large number of prisoners and nine pieces of artillery. The enemy fled in great confusion. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, turned captured guns upon the enemy with great effect. The number of prisoners will probably reach two thousand. Brig. Gen. Cutler was captured. The prisoners belong to Hancock's corps, and had been brought to town.

Considerable firing was heard down the road this morning, but no heavy fighting. Our cavalry acted with conspicuous gallantry.

From Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—The enemy retired from our right and front last night. Our forces occupy their second line this morning. The enemy's lines from Decatur to Peachtree road are all abandoned, but they are still on our left and center. Movements are intercepted as a concentration on our left and center. Skirmishing this morning on our left. With the exception of three shells fired from the right last night before the enemy withdrew from that point, he has not shelled the city for twenty-four hours. Two deserters reached our lines yesterday. They claim to have been drafted in Dayton, Ohio, and were never mustered into service. They state that they came through on the road from Chattanooga, and heard no news from Wheeler.

Prisoners brought in this morning say that Wheeler tapped the road twice, which was repaired immediately, and the trains are running through. They also state that Sherman's army is on full retreat.

[RECEIVED DISPATCH]

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—Since the morning, the enemy have retired from our extreme left. Prisoners state that trains came through from Chattanooga yesterday. The Chattanooga Gazette of the 23rd, says Wheeler destroyed the depot at Cleveland and burned the town.

[RECEIVED DISPATCH]

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—The enemy have massed his forces between Peach Ferry and the Camp road, and has abandoned his entire line on the right of the Chattanooga Railroad. Sherman's order of the 25th directing the return of the raiders, was picked up in a deserted camp. There has been skirmishing on our left all the afternoon.

A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial, dated Nashville, Aug. 18th, says the Rebel cavalry attacked Greenville on Tuesday. During the fight Gen. Stedman was seriously wounded and Col. Straight killed.

A dispatch dated Indianapolis, August 18th, states that some time for the draft approaches; the people are becoming excited. There is great demand for substitutes of any and all colors.

From Mobile.

MOBILE, August 26.—Our flag of truce boat returned from the enemy's fleet last evening. The Yankees say Fort Morgan was captured at ten o'clock on Tuesday last. On Monday the enemy centred a fire on the fort, which replied with spirit. On Tuesday the bombardment was renewed; and when the enemy succeeded in getting three howitzers in position and line of skirmishers on the beach of the fort, kept up a heavy fire on our guns and gunners with the assistance of our mortar fleet. The attack succeeded in damaging several gun carriages. Gen. Page destroyed everything in the fort. Having spiked his guns he capitulated. The garrison consisting of five hundred and eighty-one men, were sent to New Orleans. Our loss 17 killed; number of wounded unknown. Non-combatants are not allowed to visit this city. The enemy has thrown a force of 4,000 men on the main land at Grant's Pass, opposite Fort Kewell.

From Mississippi.

OSYKA MISS., 26.—Col. Scott fought the enemy in the suburbs of Clinton yesterday and drove them back one mile. The fight was desperate, our men charging gallantly. The enemy having receiving reinforcement re-occupied their ground and now occupy Clinton. The enemy's force is reported to consist of six thousand infantry and thirty pieces of artillery. Prisoners captured state they intend to remain at Clinton, but it is not believed telegraph communication open within four miles of Clinton.

From Vicksburg.

MERIDIAN, Aug. 26.—The lines at Vicksburg are completely closed for the next 30 days. Ingress and egress are not allowed under any circumstances. It is thought another movement is on foot, as the persons in the city were being impressed by the Yankees. The prisoners captured in Memphis by Forrest, left for Cahaba this morning.

From the North.

RICHMOND, Aug. 26.—The Washington Chronicle of yesterday says Memphis was attacked on the 21st, by Forrest, with three thousand cavalry. They drove in the pickets and dashed directly to headquarters of Gen. Washburne, who made a very narrow escape. They then made a rush on Backland's headquarters, who also escaped. They attacked Hurlburt's prison and were repulsed by his garrison. They next visited the Union House and endeavored to capture Hurlburt, but did not succeed. Our troops now attacked the rebels and drove them from the city, killing 30 or more. Our loss in killed and wounded about the same. The raid of the rebels on the city was a complete failure, our troops being without leaders. The rebels carried off some plunder, and captured quite a number of prisoners. New York telegrams say that rumors are current there among the best financial circles that the Government desire to send five commissioners to Richmond to arrange preliminaries for peace. Gold closed at 25 1/2.

The Governor of Ohio has issued a proclamation warning persons preparing to resist the draft to desist from such purpose. Fernando Wood in his speech at Dayton asserted that he was a peace man on the peace platform in the Chicago Convention. It is announced that Gov. H. Seymour will call the Convention to order, and Bishop Hopkins will open with prayer.

From Richmond.

RICHMOND, August 26.—The Confederate authorities have offered to exchange officer for officer and man for man with the Federal authorities. Hereafter the contention has been the delivery of excess of prisoners. Our Government insist upon the one side, which requires the delivery of all prisoners on both sides, the excess to be on parole. The Government now proposes that the excess remaining in the hands of the enemy until other captures are made. The offer though made early in the month is not yet accepted. The correspondence on the subject will shortly appear.